

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



August 3, 2005

CSSIN LETTER: 05-10

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES RESTITUTION
WAIVER PROCESS

This letter is to provide you with the process to request a waiver from the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) for restitution of child support payments made to the DFAS. This issue was addressed in DC-05-16, released by the federal Department of Health and Human Services on June 15, 2005.

During the past few weeks, local child support agencies (LCSAs) may have received letters from DFAS asking for restitution of child support payments sent between 1999 and 2003. An internal DFAS audit found that child support payments had been made on behalf of Navy service members who were no longer in the service at the time the payments were made.

The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) discussed the situation with the Assistant General Counsel, Garnishment Operations and others at DFAS. OCSE explained that federal regulations require states to disburse child support payments to the custodial families within two business days and that it was unlikely that these funds would still be available to return to DFAS.

Below is the process to request a waiver from DFAS.

- Write a letter on county letterhead to the following individual:

Defense Finance and Accounting Services
Attention: Roger J. Pinta Director, Disbursing Operations
1240 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, OH 44199

Reason for this Transmittal

- ☐ State Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Change
- ☐ Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by DCSS

- Reference each letter of restitution so that DFAS can identify the appropriate noncustodial parents (NCP). A list/spreadsheet of NCPs' names, social security numbers, and case IDs is sufficient.
- If your LCSA still has a payment received from DFAS, return the funds by paper check to DFAS with remittance information for each NCP's payment(s).
- If your LCSA does not have the payments, explain that the child support payment received from DFAS was owed by the NCP (Navy service member), credited to their child support obligation(s), and disbursed to the custodial family. Affirm that, therefore, your LCSA is unable to return the payment(s).
- If any involved case has been closed, please include that information.

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Trish Salveson, Manager of the Financial Management Policy Unit, at (916) 464-5226. However, if you have any questions regarding policy on a different subject matter, please e-mail your question(s) to the Policy Branch at policy.branch@dcss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

o/s/ KAREN M. ECHEVERRIA

SANDRA O. POOLE
Deputy Director
Child Support Services Division